



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, February 4, 2010
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MN

Man sentenced for filing false tax returns

A tax preparer was sentenced today in federal court for filing false federal income tax returns. In Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge Joan Ericksen sentenced Roland Chapaye Pour to 25 months in federal prison on one count of filing a false return. Pour was indicted on April 15, 2009, and pled guilty on October 19, 2009, immediately preceding trial.

In pleading guilty, Pour admitted that as a tax preparer, he filed false returns on behalf of others by overstating the amount of taxes withheld during the year. He specifically admitted that on February 25, 2005, he filed a false U.S. Individual Income Tax Return on behalf of another person. As to that return, Pour claimed a \$2,309 tax refund after overstating the taxes withheld for that taxpayer during the year.

Following today's sentencing, Julio LaRosa, Special Agent in Charge of the St. Paul field office of the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division, said, "We want everyone who files a tax return to take advantage of the deductions and credits to which they are entitled; however, no one is entitled to defraud the government. This sentence sends a message to those dishonest tax return preparers that making fraudulent tax returns is a crime with a prison term."

This case was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James E. Lackner.

-30-

Per U.S. Department of Justice policy, the U.S. Attorney's Office is not allowed to provide the age and city of residence for defendants charged in criminal tax cases.